

# Homogeneous Time-Varying Systems: Robustness Analysis\*

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**Abstract**— The problem of stability robustness with respect to time-varying perturbations of a given frequency spectrum is studied applying homogeneity framework. The notion of finite-time stability over time intervals of finite length, i.e. *short-finite-time stability*, is introduced and used for that purpose. The results are applied to analyze the Super-Twisting Algorithm (STA) behavior under time-varying perturbations. Some simulation examples illustrate these robustness properties.

**Index Terms**— Time-varying systems, Homogeneity, Robustness, Perturbations.

## I. INTRODUCTION

THE homogeneous time-invariant dynamical systems have a very interesting property: the local and global behaviors are the same [1]. For the stability/instability analysis, a Lyapunov/Chetaev function of a homogeneous system can also be chosen homogeneous (see, e.g. [2] and [3]), and its negativeness can be checked only on the unit radius sphere. Such strong properties have been found useful for stability analysis (see [4] and [5]), approximation of system dynamics/solutions (see [6] and [7]), stabilization (see [8], [9], [10] and [11]), and estimation [12]. Numerical analysis and design of homogeneous systems may be simpler since, for example, a Lyapunov function has to be constructed on a sphere only (on the whole state space it can be extended using homogeneity). In addition, the homogeneous systems have certain intrinsic robustness properties (see [13], [14] and [15]). For example, if a system is homogeneous (considering disturbance as an auxiliary variable) and asymptotically stable without disturbances, then it is robustly stable (input-to-state stable (ISS) or integral ISS (iISS) [15]). In some cases perturbations have a certain structure or features, robustness with respect to which it is necessary to establish. As an example the spectrum frequency of the perturbation can be considered, a dynamical system can be stable or have bounded solutions for some frequencies and be extremely sensitive to a particular frequency of exogenous disturbance (resonance phenomenon in dynamical systems).

In order to evaluate robustness with respect to frequencies the study of time-varying dynamical systems may be helpful. For instance, An extension of the homogeneity concept to time-varying systems has been given in [16] and [17], where in the latter a re-parametrization of time has also been required together with the state dilation. Recently the ideas of [16] have been extended in [18], where several stability results, uniformly in frequencies of the time-varying part,

have been established. In this work this line of research is carried on, showing that if a homogeneous system is asymptotically stable for zero frequency (in the time-invariant case), then it inherits stable behavior for some sufficiently small frequencies (boundedness of the perturbation will not be asked).

Establishing stability properties, it is also important to quantify the rate of convergence in the system: exponential, asymptotic, finite-time or fixed-time (see [19], [20], [21] and [22]). Frequently, the homogeneity theory is used to establish finite-time or fixed-time stability (see [22] and [23]); for example, if a system is globally asymptotically stable and homogeneous of negative degree, then it is finite-time stable. In this work the problem of finite-time stability analysis will be also addressed for time-varying systems. In some situations, for instance, in all the systems with some kind of dwell-time (such a behavior naturally arises in hybrid systems), in nonlinear systems with finite-time escape or in any model that is valid just for certain time intervals; the stability may be analyzed on a limited time window, then the notion of short-time stability appears (see [24], [25], [26] and [27]). This is the case studied in the present work, and the results are built on the intersection of finite-time and short-time stability.

The outline of this work is as follows. Some definitions and the homogeneity framework are given in Section II. The robustness property for some class of homogeneous time-varying systems is presented in Section III. Application of the developed theory is considered in Section IV to analyze the STA behavior under time-varying perturbations. Some concluding remarks are given in Section V. The corresponding proofs for the main results are postponed to the Appendix.

## II. PRELIMINARIES

Consider a time-varying differential equation [28]:

$$\frac{dx(t)}{dt} = f(t, x(t)), \quad t \geq t_0, \quad t_0 \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (1)$$

where  $x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is the state vector;  $f : \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is a continuous function with respect to  $x$  and piecewise continuous with respect to  $t$ ,  $f(t, 0) = 0$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . It is assumed that solution of the system (1) for an initial state  $x(t_0) = x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , where  $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  is the initial time, is denoted as  $x(t, t_0, x_0)$  and it is defined on some finite time interval  $[t_0, t_0 + T)$  (the notation  $x(t)$  is used to reference  $x(t, t_0, x_0)$  if the origin of  $x_0$  and  $t_0$  is clear from the context).

**Remark 1.** Since it is not required that  $f$  is locally Lipschitz in  $x$ , then the system (1) may have non-unique solutions for some initial states. According to [29], assuming that (1) has unique solutions for all initial states  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$ , then since  $f(t, 0) = 0$ , for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , there is always a solution  $x(t, t_0, 0) = 0$ , for all  $t \geq t_0$ , in the origin. In this case, by selecting only solutions that stay at the origin, “weak” stability<sup>2</sup> results can be presented.

**Example 1.** To illustrate the previous remark, consider a variant of (1), i.e.  $\dot{x}(t) = (|t| - 1)x^{\frac{1}{3}}(t)$ , with  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , which

<sup>2</sup>For differential equations with non-unique solutions there exist two types of stability: *stability* and *weak stability* [19]. The second one makes reference to the classic concept of *stability* but only for some solutions.

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for  $x(t_0) = 0$  does not have a unique solution since a family of solutions could be given as follows

$$x(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & \forall t \leq t_0 + \varepsilon, \\ \left[ \frac{t}{3}(|t| - 2) - \frac{(t_0 + \varepsilon)}{3}(|t_0 + \varepsilon| - 2) \right]^{\frac{3}{2}}, & \forall t > t_0 + \varepsilon, \end{cases}$$

for all  $|t_0 + \varepsilon| \geq 2$  and all  $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_+$ .

A continuous function  $\sigma : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  belongs to class  $\mathcal{K}$  if it is strictly increasing and  $\sigma(0) = 0$ ; it belongs to class  $\mathcal{K}_\infty$  if it is also unbounded. A continuous function  $\beta : \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  belongs to class  $\mathcal{KL}$  if  $\beta(\cdot, r) \in \mathcal{K}$  and  $\beta(r, \cdot)$  is a strictly decreasing to zero for any fixed  $r \in \mathbb{R}_+$ . Denote a sequence of integers  $1, \dots, m$  as  $\overline{1, m}$ , and  $|q|$  the Euclidean norm of a vector  $q$ .

### A. Stability definitions

Let  $\Omega, \Xi$  be open neighborhoods of the origin in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $0 \in \Omega \subset \Xi$ .

**Definition 1.** [28], [29] *At the steady state  $x = 0$  the system (1) is said to be*

a) *Uniformly stable (US) if for any  $\epsilon > 0$  there is  $\delta(\epsilon) > 0$  such that for any  $x_0 \in \Omega$  with any  $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $|x_0| \leq \delta(\epsilon)$  then  $|x(t, t_0, x_0)| \leq \epsilon$ , for all  $t \geq t_0$  and any  $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ ;*

b) *Uniformly asymptotically stable (UAS) if it is US and for any  $\kappa > 0$  and  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists  $T(\kappa, \epsilon) \geq 0$  such that for any  $x_0 \in \Omega$  with any  $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $|x_0| \leq \kappa$  then  $|x(t, t_0, x_0)| \leq \epsilon$ , for all  $t \geq t_0 + T(\kappa, \epsilon)$  and any  $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ ;*

c) *Uniformly finite-time stable (UFTS) if it is US and finite-time converging from  $\Omega$ , i.e. for any  $x_0 \in \Omega$  with any  $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  there exists  $0 \leq T^{t_0, x_0} < +\infty$  such that  $x(t, t_0, x_0) = 0$  for all  $t \geq T^{t_0, x_0}$ . The function  $T_0(t_0, x_0) = \inf\{T^{t_0, x_0} \geq 0 : x(t, t_0, x_0) = 0 \forall t \geq T^{t_0, x_0}\}$  is called the settling time of the system (1).*

If  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^n$ , then the corresponding properties are called global uniform stability/asymptotic-stability/finite-time-stability of  $x = 0$ . Another version of uniform finite-time stability has also been proposed in [17].

In this work a special stability notion defined not for all  $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ , as in Definition 1, will be also of interest but for a compact interval of initial times  $t_0$ , and only on a fixed interval of time (see [24], [25], [26] and [27]):

**Definition 2.** *At the steady state  $x = 0$  the system (1) is said to be*

a) *Short-time stable (Short-TS) with respect to  $(\Omega, \Xi, T^0, T_f)$  if for any  $x_0 \in \Omega$ ,  $|x(t, t_0, x_0)| \in \Xi$  for all  $t \in [t_0, T_f]$  for any  $t_0 \in [-T^0, T^0]$ ;*

b) *Short-finite-time stable (Short-FTS) with respect to  $(\Omega, \Xi, T^0, T_f)$  if it is Short-TS with respect to  $(\Omega, \Xi, T^0, T_f)$  and finite-time converging from  $\Omega$  with the convergence time  $T^{t_0, x_0} \leq T_f$  for all  $x_0 \in \Omega$  and  $t_0 \in [-T^0, T^0]$ ;*

c) *Globally short-finite-time stable (GShort-FTS) if for any bounded set  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  containing the origin there exist a bounded set  $\Xi \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\Omega \subset \Xi$  and  $T_f > 0$  such that the system is Short-FTS with respect to  $(\Omega, \Xi, T^0, T_f)$  for any  $T^0$ .*

In [24], [25], [26] and [27] the short-time stability is considered for a fixed initial time instant  $t_0$  only.

**Remark 2.** *Short-time stability [26] was originally called stability over a finite interval of time (see [24], [25] and*

*[27]) which is related to the notion of practical stability [30], but the former notion is used here to avoid a confusion with finite-time stability from [19] and [8], since both concepts of stability are used in the paper.*

### B. Homogeneity

For any  $r_i > 0$ ,  $i = \overline{1, n}$  and  $\lambda > 0$ , define the dilation matrix  $\Lambda_r(\lambda) = \text{diag}\{\lambda^{r_i}\}_{i=1}^n$ , the vector of weights  $r = [r_1, \dots, r_n]^T$ , and the homogeneous norm<sup>3</sup>, defined for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , as follows

$$|x|_r = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|^{\frac{\rho}{r_i}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\rho}}, \quad \rho = \prod_{i=1}^n r_i.$$

For all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , its Euclidean norm  $|x|$  is related with the homogeneous one [1]:

$$\underline{\sigma}_r(|x|_r) \leq |x| \leq \bar{\sigma}_r(|x|_r), \quad (2)$$

for some  $\underline{\sigma}_r, \bar{\sigma}_r \in \mathcal{K}_\infty$ . In the following, due to this “equivalence”, stability analysis with respect to the norm  $|x|$  will be substituted with analysis for the norm  $|x|_r$ . The homogeneous norm has an important property that is  $|\Lambda_r(\lambda)x|_r = \lambda|x|_r$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Define  $\mathbb{S}_r = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x|_r = 1\}$ .

**Definition 3.** [2] *The function  $g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is called  $r$ -homogeneous ( $r_i > 0$ ,  $i = \overline{1, n}$ ), if for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  the relation  $g(\Lambda_r(\lambda)x) = \lambda^\nu g(x)$ , holds for some  $\nu \in \mathbb{R}$  and all  $\lambda > 0$ . The function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is called  $r$ -homogeneous ( $r_i > 0$ ,  $i = \overline{1, n}$ ), if for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  the relation  $f(\Lambda_r(\lambda)x) = \lambda^\nu \Lambda_r(\lambda)f(x)$ , holds for some  $\nu \geq -\min_{1 \leq i \leq n} r_i$  and all  $\lambda > 0$ . In both cases, the constant  $\nu$  is called the degree of homogeneity.*

A dynamical system

$$\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t)), \quad t \geq 0, \quad (3)$$

is called  $r$ -homogeneous of degree  $\nu$  if this property is satisfied for the vector function  $f$  in the sense of Definition 3. An advantage of homogeneous systems described by nonlinear ordinary differential equations is that any of its solution can be obtained from another solution under the state dilation and a suitable time rescaling:

**Proposition 1.** [1] *Let  $x : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  be a solution of the  $r$ -homogeneous system (3) with the degree  $\nu$  for an initial state  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . For any  $\lambda > 0$  define  $y(t) = \Lambda_r(\lambda)x(\lambda^\nu t)$  for all  $t \geq 0$ , then  $y(t)$  is also a solution of (3) with the initial state  $y_0 = \Lambda_r(\lambda)x_0$ .*

Homogeneous systems possess certain robustness with respect to external disturbances. For example, consider the system

$$\dot{x}(t) = F(x(t), d(t)), \quad t \geq 0, \quad (4)$$

where  $x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is the state,  $d(t) \in \mathbb{R}^m$  is external disturbance,  $d : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  is measurable and essentially bounded function of time,  $F : \mathbb{R}^{n+m} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is locally Lipschitz continuous.

**Theorem 1.** [15] *Let  $F(\Lambda_r(\lambda)x, \Lambda_{\tilde{r}}(\lambda)d) = \lambda^\nu \Lambda_r(\lambda)F(x, d)$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $d \in \mathbb{R}^m$  and all  $\lambda > 0$  with the weights  $r = [r_1, \dots, r_n] > 0$ ,  $\tilde{r} = [\tilde{r}_1, \dots, \tilde{r}_m] \geq 0$*

<sup>3</sup>The homogeneous norm is not a norm in the usual sense since it does not satisfy the triangle inequality.

with a degree  $\nu \geq -\min_{1 \leq i \leq n} r_i$ . Assume that the system (4) is globally asymptotically stable for  $d = 0$ , then the system (4) is: a) ISS if  $\tilde{r}_{\min} > 0$ , where  $\tilde{r}_{\min} = \min_{1 \leq j \leq m} \tilde{r}_j$ ; or b) iISS if  $\tilde{r}_{\min} = 0$  and  $\nu \leq 0$ .

### C. Homogeneity for time-varying systems

The weighted homogeneity property, introduced for time-invariant systems in Definition 3, is understood for the time-varying systems (1) in the following sense.

**Definition 4.** [16] The function  $g : \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is called  $r$ -homogeneous ( $r_i > 0$ ,  $i = \overline{1, n}$ ), if for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  the relation  $g(t, \Lambda_r(\lambda)x) = \lambda^\nu g(t, x)$ , holds for some  $\nu \in \mathbb{R}$  and all  $\lambda > 0$ . The function  $f : \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is called  $r$ -homogeneous ( $r_i > 0$ ,  $i = \overline{1, n}$ ), if for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  the relation  $f(t, \Lambda_r(\lambda)x) = \lambda^\nu \Lambda_r(\lambda)f(t, x)$ , holds for some  $\nu \geq -\min_{1 \leq i \leq n} r_i$  and all  $\lambda > 0$ .

Thus, in the time-varying case (1) the homogeneity can be verified interpreting  $t$  as a constant parameter. Consider also the following modification of the system (1):

$$\frac{dx(t)}{dt} = f(\omega t, x(t)), \quad t \geq t_0, \quad t_0 \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (5)$$

for some  $\omega > 0$ . The parameter  $\omega$  represents the frequency of time-varying part of the system. For an initial state  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  denote the corresponding solution of (5) as  $x_\omega(t, t_0, x_0)$ , thus  $x(t, t_0, x_0) = x_1(t, t_0, x_0)$ . In this case the following extension of Proposition 1 is provided.

**Proposition 2.** [18], [16] Let  $x(t, t_0, x_0)$  be a solution of the  $r$ -homogeneous system (1) with the degree  $\nu$  for an initial state  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . For any  $\lambda > 0$  the system (5) with  $\omega = \lambda^\nu$  has a solution  $y(t, t_0, y_0) = \Lambda_r(\lambda)x(\lambda^\nu t, \lambda^\nu t_0, x_0)$  for all  $t \geq t_0$  with the initial state  $y_0 = \Lambda_r(\lambda)x_0$ .

It is a well known fact that for linear time-varying systems (i.e. homogeneous systems of degree  $\nu = 0$ ) that its stability for some  $\omega$  does not imply stability for all  $\omega \in (0, +\infty)$ . Surprisingly, for nonlinear homogeneous time-varying systems with degree  $\nu \neq 0$  this is not the case:

**Lemma 1.** [18], [16] Let the system (1) be  $r$ -homogeneous with degree  $\nu \neq 0$  and GUAS, i.e. there is  $\beta \in \mathcal{KL}$  such that  $|x(t, t_0, x_0)|_r \leq \beta(|x_0|_r, t - t_0)$ ,  $\forall t \geq t_0$ , for any  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and any  $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then, (5) is GUAS for any  $\omega > 0$  and  $|x_\omega(t, t_0, x_0)|_r \leq \beta_\omega(|x_0|_r, t - t_0)$ ,  $\forall t \geq t_0$ , for any  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and any  $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ , where  $\beta_\omega(s, t) = \omega^{1/\nu} \beta(\omega^{-1/\nu} s, \omega t)$ .

Thus, it is shown in Lemma 1 that the rate of convergence will be scaled by  $\omega$ , then the time of transients in these systems is predefined by the time-varying part, which it is not the case for the degree  $\nu = 0$ , where the rate of convergence cannot be modified by  $\omega$ . Several useful consequences of Proposition 2 and Lemma 1 can be formulated, see [18] for more details.

### III. MAIN RESULT: SHORT-FINITE-TIME STABILITY

In this section the problem of stability robustness is considered with respect to time-varying part. Assuming that for  $\omega = 0$  the system (5) is stable and homogeneous, it will be shown that in this case a certain stability will be preserved for a frequency spectrum sufficiently close to zero. All proofs are given in the Appendix. The following continuity restriction is imposed on  $f$  in (5).

**Assumption 1.** For (5), there exists a function  $\sigma \in \mathcal{K}_\infty$  such that  $\sup_{\xi \in \mathbb{S}_r} |f(\tau, \xi) - f(0, \xi)| \leq \sigma(|\tau|)$ ,  $\forall \tau \in \mathbb{R}$ .

In the following, two cases will be considered depending on the sign of homogeneity degree.

**Lemma 2.** Let the system (5) be  $r$ -homogeneous with degree  $\nu > 0$ , asymptotically stable for  $\omega = 0$ , and Assumption 1 be satisfied. Then for any  $\rho > 0$  and  $T^0 > 0$  there is  $\omega_0 > 0$  such that the set  $B_\rho = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x|_r \leq \rho\}$  is reached by any solution of (5) with  $\omega \in [-\omega_0, \omega_0]$  for all initial states  $x_0 \notin B_\rho$  at initial times  $t_0 \in [-T^0, T^0]$ .

Note that the result of Lemma 2 does not claim that the set  $B_\rho$  is stable or invariant since, in general, a trajectory can next leave  $B_\rho$  and return to infinity. Such a behavior is possible since the term proportional to  $\omega t$  may be asymptotically unbounded in the lemma conditions. This result can be interpreted as a short-finite-time stability of  $B_\rho$ .

For Lemma 2, since  $f(t, 0) = 0$  for any  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , there is a solution that stays at the origin for all  $t \geq T_f$ , then a kind of standard finite-time stability notion can be recovered in “weak” sense, for a part of solutions.

**Lemma 3.** Let the system (5) be  $r$ -homogeneous with degree  $\nu < 0$ , asymptotically stable for  $\omega = 0$ , and Assumption 1 be satisfied. Then for any  $\rho > 0$  and  $T^0 > 0$  there are  $\omega_0 > 0$ ,  $\vartheta \geq 1$  and  $T_f > T^0$  such that (5) with  $\omega \in [-\omega_0, \omega_0]$  is Short-FTS at the origin with respect to  $(B_\rho, B_{\vartheta\rho}, T^0, T_f)$ .

**Remark 3.** If it is assumed that the system (5) is periodical in time, i.e.  $f(t, x) = f(t + \mathcal{T}, x)$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  and some  $\mathcal{T} > 0$ , then initial times can be selected always in the interval  $t_0 \in [-0.5\mathcal{T}, 0.5\mathcal{T}]$ . Therefore, Lemma 2 implies that for any  $\rho > 0$  there is  $\omega_0 > 0$  such that the set  $B_\rho$  is uniformly reached by any solution of (5) with  $\omega \in [-\omega_0, \omega_0]$  for initial states  $x_0 \notin B_\rho$ , while Lemma 3 ensures Short-FTS of (5) with  $\omega \in [-\omega_0, \omega_0]$  uniformly in  $T^0$ .

The result of Lemma 3, under additional mild conditions on the system robustness and boundedness of the time-varying perturbation, can be extended to global short-finite-time stability. For this reason the following class of functions is introduced for  $\zeta \in \mathcal{K}$  and  $\delta > 0$ :

$$\mathcal{L}_{\zeta, \delta}^m = \{d : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m : |d(s)| \leq \zeta(s) \quad \forall s \geq 0; \\ \exists \tau > 0 : d(s) = 0, \quad \forall |s| \geq \tau; \quad \max\{|d|_1, |d|_\infty\} \leq \delta\},$$

where  $|d|_1 = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |d(t)| dt$ ,  $|d|_\infty = \sup_{t \in \mathbb{R}} |d(t)|$ .

**Theorem 2.** Let conditions of Theorem 1 be satisfied for (4) with  $\nu < 0$  and  $\tilde{r} = [0, \dots, 0]$ . Then there exist  $\zeta \in \mathcal{K}$  and  $\delta > 0$  such that (4) is GShort-FTS provided that  $d \in \mathcal{L}_{\zeta, \delta}^m$ , and  $d(t) = d(t + \mathcal{T})$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , with  $d(t) \neq 0$  and some  $\mathcal{T} > 0$ .

This theorem illustrates, in particular, the features of resonance behavior in nonlinear systems: it is dependent on the amplitude and frequency of the excitation, since selection of the gain function  $\zeta$  is related with the frequency restriction. For linear systems, i.e. with  $\nu = 0$ , there is dependence on frequency only. Theorem 2 provides also an extension of Theorem 4.1 in [29]:

**Corollary 1.** Let the system in (5) possess a Lyapunov function  $V : \mathbb{R} \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ , where  $0 \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is an open neighborhood of the origin, such that for all  $x \in \Omega$

and  $t \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\alpha_1(|x|) \leq V(t, x) \leq \alpha_2(|x|), \quad \alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathcal{K}_\infty;$$

$$\dot{V}(t, x) \leq -\alpha V^\eta + k(\omega t) V^\eta, \quad \alpha > 0, \eta \in (0, 1),$$

for a continuous  $k : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $k(0) = 0$ . Then for any  $T^0 > 0$  there exist  $\omega_0 > 0$  such that for  $|\omega| \leq \omega_0$  the system (5) is Short-FTS with respect to  $(\Omega, \Xi, T^0, T_f)$  for some  $\Omega \subset \Xi \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $T_f \geq T^0$ .

If  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $k(t)$  is periodic, then there exist  $\omega_0 > 0$  and  $\delta > 0$  such that for  $k \in \mathcal{L}_{\zeta, \delta}^1$ ,  $\zeta(s) = \sup_{|t| \leq s} k(\omega_0 t)$  the system (5) is GShort-FTS.

Note that contrarily to [29] there is no requirement on the sign of the function  $k$  in Corollary 1.

**Example 2.** Consider a system  $\dot{x}(t) = -\sqrt{|x(t)|} \text{sign}(x(t)) + \delta \sin(\omega t) \sqrt{|x(t)|}$ , that is an example of the system considered in Corollary 1 with  $\eta = 0.5$  and  $\nu = -0.5$ . Simulating this system on the time interval  $[0, 100]$  (by iISS property this system has bounded solutions for any  $\delta$  and  $\omega$  on this interval) for different values of  $(\omega, \delta)$  and calculating the map  $a(\omega, \delta) = \log[\max_{50 \leq t \leq 100} |x(t)|]$ , the results given in Fig. 1 are obtained.

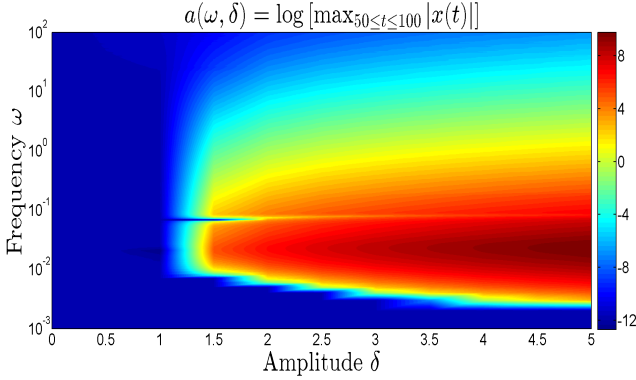


Figure 1. Illustration for Corollary 1 applied to Example 2.

As it can be seen from this figure, the system trajectories converge to the origin for small amplitudes  $\delta$  and for small values of the frequency  $\omega$ , as it has been proven in Theorem 2 and Corollary 1. Note that, the “resonance” happens for particular combinations of  $\delta$  and  $\omega$  (see the red area for  $\delta = 5$  and  $\omega = 10^{-2}$ ).

**Remark 4.** Since the continuity of  $f$  with respect to  $x$  is not required but in Theorem 2 (see Appendix), the results given in this section can be extended for dynamical systems (5) with discontinuous right-hand side through the ISS/iISS results given in Theorem 1 [15], and the homogeneity notion for differential inclusions [31]. To extend Theorem 2 it is only necessary to add a restriction from [15] on 4, i.e.

$$\sup_{\xi \in \mathbb{S}_r} |F(d, \xi) - F(0, \xi)| \leq \sigma'(|d|)$$

for all  $d \in \mathbb{R}^m$  and some  $\sigma' \in \mathcal{K}_\infty$ .

#### IV. APPLICATION: SUPER-TWISTING ALGORITHM

Let us introduce the following time-varying system

$$\dot{x}(t) = K(\omega t)u(t) + \phi(\omega t, \delta),$$

where  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  is the state,  $u \in \mathbb{R}$  is the control input,  $\phi : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  represents some bounded disturbances,

i.e.  $|\phi(\omega t, \delta)| \leq \delta$ , for all  $\omega \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\delta \in \mathbb{R}_+$ , frequency and amplitude, respectively; and all  $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$ ; and  $K : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is an unknown time-varying function such that  $K(0) > 0$ . It is worth mentioning that function  $K$  can change its sign and therefore the sign of  $u$ .

Consider the STA [32]

$$u(t) = -k_1 [x(t)]^{\frac{1}{2}} + u_1(t), \quad \dot{u}_1(t) = -k_2 [x(t)]^0,$$

where  $[\cdot]^\gamma \doteq |\cdot|^\gamma \text{sign}(\cdot)$ , and  $k_1, k_2 > 0$  are positive constants. Then, let us consider the closed-loop system, i.e.

$$\dot{x}(t) = K(\omega t) \left( -k_1 [x(t)]^{\frac{1}{2}} + u_1(t) \right) + \phi(\omega t, \delta),$$

$$\dot{u}_1(t) = -k_2 [x(t)]^0.$$

Define the variable  $z(t) = K(\omega t)u_1(t) + \phi(\omega t, \delta)$ . Hence, the closed-loop system may be rewritten as follows

$$\dot{x}(t) = -K(\omega t)k_1 [x(t)]^{\frac{1}{2}} + z(t), \quad (6)$$

$$\dot{z}(t) = -K(\omega t)k_2 [x(t)]^0 + d(t), \quad (7)$$

where  $d(t) = \dot{K}(\omega t)u_1(t) + \dot{\phi}(\omega t, \delta)$ . Therefore, let us assume that  $K$  and  $\phi$  are such that  $d(0) = 0$ . Note that the previous closed-loop system has the form (5). Let us apply the results given by Lemma 3 in order to prove that the closed-loop system (6)-(7) is Short-FTS.

System (6)-(7) is  $r$ -homogeneous with degree  $\nu = -0.5$  for  $r = [r_1, r_2] = [1, 0.5]$ . Fig. 2 depicts system trajectories for different values of  $\omega$  with fixed values of  $\delta, k_1$  and  $k_2$ , that depict some fractality properties.

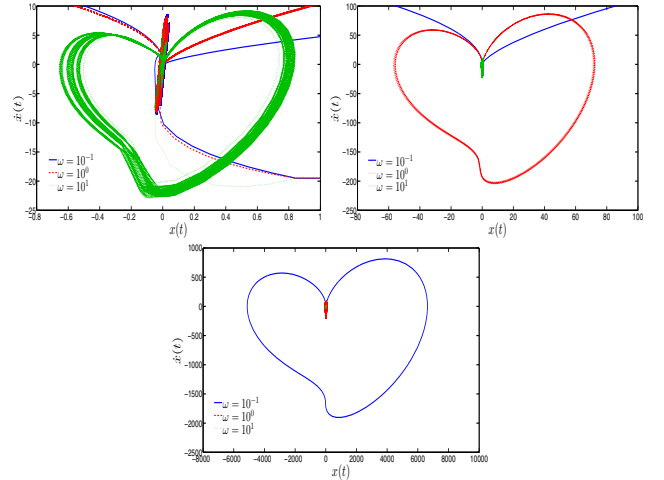


Figure 2. Trajectories  $\dot{x}(t)$  vs  $x(t)$  for fixed  $\delta = 2.5$ ,  $k_1 = 20$  and  $k_2 = 100$ . The bottom graph depicts the trajectories of the system for three different frequencies, i.e.  $\omega = 0.1[\text{rad/s}]$  (solid blue line),  $\omega = 1[\text{rad/s}]$  (dashed red line) and  $\omega = 10[\text{rad/s}]$  (dotted green line). The right-top graph shows a zoom in the bottom graph while the left-top graph depicts another zoom.

For the case  $\omega = 0$ , system (6)-(7) becomes the classic STA, i.e.  $\dot{x}(t) = -\alpha k_1 [x(t)]^{\frac{1}{2}} + z(t)$ ,  $\dot{z}(t) = -\alpha k_2 [x(t)]^0$ , where  $\alpha = K(0) > 0$ . It has been proved in [32] (recently in [33] and [34]) that STA possesses convergence in finite-time. Since  $K$  and  $\phi$  are locally Lipschitz, and  $d(0) = 0$ , Assumption 1 holds. Thus, all the conditions for Lemma 3 are satisfied and then system (6)-(7) is Short-FTS with respect to  $(B_\rho, B_{\vartheta\rho}, T^0, T_f)$  for any  $\rho > 0$ ,  $\vartheta \geq 1$  and  $T_f > T^0 > 0$ .

Let us consider that  $K(\omega t) = 1.5 \sin(\omega t) + 1.1$ ,  $\phi(\omega t, \delta) = \delta(\sin(2\omega t) + \cos(\omega t))$ , and thus  $d(t) =$

$1.5\omega \cos(\omega t)u_1(t) + \delta(2\omega \cos(2\omega t) - \omega \sin(\omega t))$ , with  $u_1(0)$  such that  $d(0) = 0$ , and that the value of the STA gains are fixed, i.e.  $k_1 = 20$  and  $k_2 = 100$ . Simulating the closed-loop system on the time interval  $[0, 100]$  for different values of  $(\omega, \delta)$  and calculating  $a(\omega, \delta)$  (previously defined in Example 2), the results given in Fig. 3 are obtained.

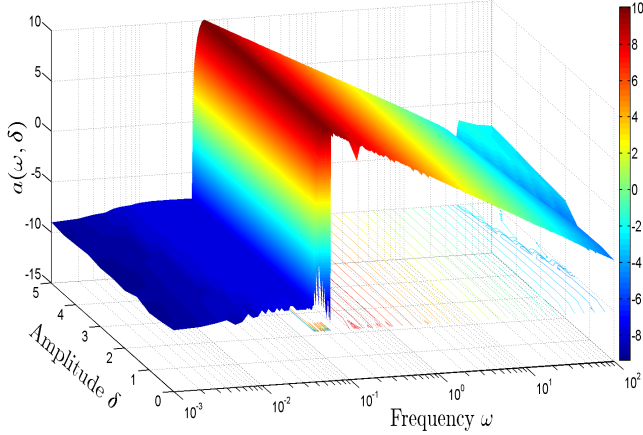


Figure 3. Map  $a(\omega, \delta) = \log [\max_{50 \leq t \leq 100} |x(t)|]$  applied to the closed-loop system (6)-(7) with  $d(t) = 1.5\omega \cos(\omega t)u_1(t) + \delta(2\omega \cos(2\omega t) - \omega \sin(\omega t))$ ,  $k_1 = 20$  and  $k_2 = 100$ .

From Fig. 3, one concludes again that the system is converging to the origin for small values of the frequency  $\omega$ ; and the “resonance” may happen for some values of  $\omega$ .

The short-finite-time stability described in Lemma 3 is depicted by Fig. 4, for some values of frequency. The results given in this figure shows that there exists  $\omega_0 > 0$  such that for  $\omega \in [-\omega_0, \omega_0]$  system (6)-(7) is *Short-FTS* with respect to certain  $(B_\rho, B_{\partial\rho}, T^0, T_f)$ . Note also the existence of some trajectories which may leave the set  $B_\rho$  due to non-uniqueness solutions of the system (6)-(7). However, after a while, the steady state  $x = 0$  becomes again *Short-FTS* with respect to another interval of time.

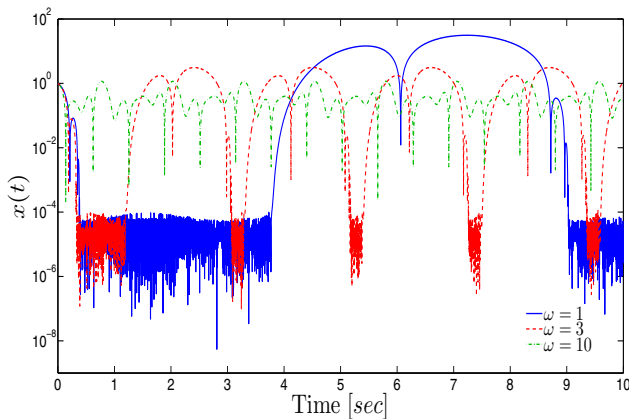


Figure 4. Illustration for Lemma 3 applied to the closed-loop system (6)-(7) with  $d(t) = 1.5\omega \cos(\omega t)u_1(t) + \delta(2\omega \cos(2\omega t) - \omega \sin(\omega t))$ ,  $\delta = 2.5$ ,  $k_1 = 20$  and  $k_2 = 100$ . Note that for  $\omega = 10[\text{rad/s}]$  the closed-loop system is not *Short-FTS*.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper the problem of stability robustness with respect to time-varying perturbations of a given frequency spectrum is studied applying homogeneity framework. The notion of *short-finite-time stability* is introduced and used for

that purpose. The results are applied to analyze the STA behavior under time-varying perturbations, and to demonstrate some robustness properties of the three-tank system. Several simulation examples illustrated these robustness properties. Applications of this approach to analysis of more complex systems as well as to design of control, estimation or identification algorithms in time-varying systems is a direction of future research.

## APPENDIX

The following auxiliary result is required.

**Claim 1.** Let the system (5) be  $r$ -homogeneous with degree  $\nu \neq 0$ , asymptotically stable for  $\omega = 0$ , and Assumption 1 be satisfied. Then for any  $\rho > \varepsilon > 0$  and any  $T^0 > 0$ , there exists  $\omega^{T^0, \rho, \varepsilon} > 0$  such that  $|x(T^{T^0, \rho, \varepsilon})|_r \leq \varepsilon$  for some  $T^{T^0, \rho, \varepsilon} \in (t_0, +\infty)$  for all solutions of (5) with  $|\omega| \leq \omega^{T^0, \rho, \varepsilon}$  provided that initial states, at  $t_0 \in [-T^0, T^0]$ , satisfy  $x(t_0) \in \rho\mathbb{S}_r$ .

*Proof:* By conditions of the claim, the time-invariant modification of (5),  $\frac{dx(t)}{dt} = f(0, x(t))$ , is globally asymptotically stable and  $r$ -homogeneous. Then there is a homogeneous Lyapunov function  $V : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  of degree  $\mu > 0$  such that:

$$a = -\sup_{\xi \in \mathbb{S}_r} \frac{dV(\xi)}{d\xi} f(0, \xi) > 0, \quad 0 < b = \sup_{\xi \in \mathbb{S}_r} \left| \frac{\partial V(\xi)}{\partial \xi} \right| < +\infty, \\ c_1 = \inf_{\xi \in \mathbb{S}_r} V(\xi), \quad c_2 = \sup_{\xi \in \mathbb{S}_r} V(\xi), \quad c_1 |x|_r^\mu \leq V(x) \leq c_2 |x|_r^\mu,$$

for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Take  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , then there is  $\xi \in \mathbb{S}_r$  such that  $x = \Lambda_r(\lambda)\xi$  for  $\lambda = |x|_r$ . Let us derive the derivative of  $V$  for the system in (5):

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V} &= \frac{dV(x)}{dx} f(\omega t, x) = \frac{dV(x)}{dx} f(0, x) \\ &\quad + \frac{dV(x)}{dx} [f(\omega t, x) - f(0, x)] \\ &= \lambda^{\nu+\mu} \left\{ \frac{dV(\xi)}{d\xi} f(0, \xi) + \frac{dV(\xi)}{d\xi} [f(\omega t, \xi) - f(0, \xi)] \right\} \\ &\leq \lambda^{\nu+\mu} \{-a + b|f(\omega t, \xi) - f(0, \xi)|\} \\ &\leq |x|_r^{\nu+\mu} \{-a + b\sigma(|\omega t|)\}. \end{aligned}$$

For  $|t| \leq T_\omega = |\omega|^{-1} \sigma^{-1}(0.5ab^{-1})$ , it is obtained:

$$\dot{V} \leq -0.5a|x|_r^{\nu+\mu} \leq -0.5ac_2^{-1-\nu/\mu} V^{1+\nu/\mu}.$$

If  $t_0 \in (-T_\omega, T_\omega)$ , then for  $t \in [t_0, T_\omega]$ , it follows that

$$V(t) \leq [V(t_0)^{-\nu/\mu} + 0.5ac_2^{-1-\nu/\mu} \nu \mu^{-1} (t - t_0)]^{-\mu/\nu},$$

and  $|x(t)|_r \leq c_1^{-1} c_2^{1/\mu} [|x(t_0)|_r^{-\nu} + 0.5ac_2^{-1} \nu \mu^{-1} (t - t_0)]^{-1/\nu}$ . From this expression, if  $t \geq T^{t_0, \rho, \varepsilon} = t_0 + \frac{c_1^{-\nu} c_2^{\nu/\mu} \varepsilon^{-\nu} - \rho^{-\nu}}{0.5ac_2^{-1} \nu \mu^{-1}}$ , then  $|x(t)|_r \leq \varepsilon$  provided that  $|x(t_0)|_r = \rho$ . Therefore, for any  $t_0 \in [-T^0, T^0]$  (if the conclusion above is satisfied for the initial time  $T^0$ , then the same is true for all  $|t_0| \leq T^0$ ), all solutions of (5) with  $|\omega| \leq \omega^{T^0, \rho, \varepsilon} = \frac{\sigma^{-1}(0.5ab^{-1})}{T^{T^0, \rho, \varepsilon}}$  and initial states from the sphere  $\rho\mathbb{S}_r$ , for any  $\rho > 0$ , reach the ball  $B_\varepsilon$ , in a finite time less than  $T^{T^0, \rho, \varepsilon}$ . Note that the value of  $\omega^{T^0, \rho, \varepsilon}$  is selected in order to ensure that  $T^{T^0, \rho, \varepsilon} = T_\omega$ .  $\square$

In the claim proof the following expressions for  $T^{T^0, \rho, \varepsilon}$  and  $\omega^{T^0, \rho, \varepsilon}$  have been established:

$$T^{T^0, \rho, \varepsilon} = T^0 + \frac{c_1^{-\nu} c_2^{\nu/\mu} \varepsilon^{-\nu} - \rho^{-\nu}}{0.5ac_2^{-1} \nu \mu^{-1}}, \quad \omega^{T^0, \rho, \varepsilon} = \frac{\sigma^{-1}(0.5ab^{-1})}{T^{T^0, \rho, \varepsilon}},$$

where the meaning of parameters  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $\mu$ ,  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  is explained above (they all are related with the properties of the time-invariant system (5) with  $t = 0$ ).

**Proof of Lemma 2:** The conditions of Claim 1 are satisfied. Note that for  $\nu > 0$

$$T^{T^0, +\infty, \rho} = T^0 + 2 \frac{\mu c_2^{1+\nu/\mu}}{a \nu c_1^\nu}, \quad \omega^{T^0, +\infty, \rho} = \frac{\sigma^{-1}(0.5ab^{-1})}{T^{T^0, +\infty, \rho}}$$

are finite constants for any  $\rho > 0$  and  $T^0 > 0$ . Let us fix  $\rho > 0$  and  $T^0 > 0$  and consider a solution of (5) for  $|\omega| \leq \omega_0 = \omega^{T^0, +\infty, \rho}$  with initial state  $x_0 \notin B_\rho$  at the instant  $t_0 \in [-T^0, T^0]$ . From Claim 1,  $|x(T^{T^0, +\infty, \rho}, t_0, x_0)|_r \leq \rho$ , that is necessary to prove.

**Proof of Lemma 3:** The conditions of Claim 1 are satisfied. For  $\nu < 0$ , it is given that

$$T^{T^0, \rho, 0} = T^0 - \frac{c_2 \mu \rho^{-\nu}}{0.5a\nu}, \quad \omega^{T^0, \rho, 0} = \frac{\sigma^{-1}(0.5ab^{-1})}{T^{T^0, \rho, 0}}$$

are finite constants for any  $\rho > 0$  and  $T^0 > 0$ . Let us fix  $\rho > 0$  and  $T^0 > 0$  and consider a solution of (5) for  $|\omega| \leq \omega_0 = \frac{\sigma^{-1}(0.5ab^{-1})}{T^{T^0, \rho, 0}}$  with initial state  $x_0 \in B_\rho$  at the instant  $t_0 \in [-T^0, T^0]$ , then  $|x(T^{T^0, \rho, 0}, t_0, x_0)|_r = 0$  from Claim 1. According to proof of Claim 1,  $\dot{V}(t) \leq 0$  for all  $T^{T^0, \rho, 0} \geq t \geq t_0 \in [-T^0, T^0]$ , that implies short-finite-time stability of (5) for  $|\omega| \leq \omega_0$  with respect to  $(B_\rho, B_{\vartheta\rho}, T^0, T^{T^0, \rho, 0})$ , where  $\vartheta = c_1^{-1/\mu} c_2^{1/\mu}$ .

**Proof of Theorem 2:** Since conditions of Theorem 1 are satisfied for (4) with  $\nu < 0$  and  $\tilde{r}_{\min} = 0$ , then (4) is iISS and there exist a function  $\gamma \in \mathcal{K}_\infty$  (related with asymptotic gain of (4)) such that for all  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and all  $d \in \mathcal{L}_{\zeta, \delta}^m$  for any  $\zeta \in \mathcal{K}$  and any  $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ :

$$|x(t, t_0, x_0)|_r \leq \gamma(\delta), \quad \forall t \geq t_0 + T^{\delta, x_0}, \quad T^{\delta, x_0} \geq 0,$$

where the homogeneous norm is used in the left-hand side due to the norm equivalence (2). Under theorem conditions the system (4) is  $r$ -homogeneous in the sense of Definition 4 for  $f(t, x) = F(d(t), x)$ , and for such an  $f$  the system (5) is asymptotically stable for  $t = 0$  due to  $d(0) = 0$  (it is assumed that  $d \in \mathcal{L}_{\zeta, \delta}^m$ ). To verify Assumption 1 consider:

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{\xi \in \mathbb{S}_r} |f(\tau, \xi) - f(0, \xi)| &= \sup_{\xi \in \mathbb{S}_r} |F(d(\tau), \xi) - F(d(0), \xi)| \\ &\leq \varsigma \circ \zeta(|\tau|) = \sigma(|\tau|), \end{aligned}$$

where existence of such a function  $\varsigma \in \mathcal{K}_\infty$  follows from continuity of  $F$  and existence of  $\zeta$  is fixed for  $d \in \mathcal{L}_{\zeta, \delta}^m$ . Therefore, all conditions of Lemma 3 are satisfied and the input  $d(t)$  is periodic with the period  $\mathcal{T}$ , then for any  $t_0 \in [-0.5\mathcal{T}, 0.5\mathcal{T}]$  and any  $\rho = \gamma(\delta)$  there is  $\zeta \in \mathcal{K}$  sufficiently small (this gain function plays the role of the parameter  $\omega$  in Lemma 3) such that (4) with  $d \in \mathcal{L}_{\zeta, \delta}^m$  is short-finite-time stable with respect to  $(B_\rho, B_{\vartheta\rho}, 0.5\mathcal{T}, T_f)$  for some  $\vartheta > 1$  and  $T_f > 0.5\mathcal{T}$  (the time  $T_f$  depends on  $\rho = \gamma(\delta)$  and  $\mathcal{T}$ ). Combining this result with iISS property established previously, since  $t_0 + T^{\delta, x_0}$  can be projected into  $[-0.5\mathcal{T}, 0.5\mathcal{T}]$ , due to its periodicity; the required conclusion is obtained.

**Proof of Corollary 1:** It is straightforward to verify, that the system  $\dot{x}(t) \leq -\alpha x^\eta(t) + k(\omega t) x^\eta(t)$ , which it is a comparison system for the Lyapunov function  $V$  with  $x(t_0) = V(t_0, x(t_0))$ , satisfies all conditions Theorem 2 and Lemma 3 for  $\nu = \eta - 1 < 0$ . The result of this corollary follows Lemma 3 for the case  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  and Theorem 2 for the case  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^n$ .

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